Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3663

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, SOPN, MZ

SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA

1. SOUTH AFRICAN CONSUL GENERAL KOTZE AND SENIOR STAFF MEMBERS AND FAMILIES LEFT MOZAMBIQUE BY ROAD IN A FRELIMO-ESCORTED CARAVAN JUNE 22. WHILE THE PUBLIC POSTURE OF SOUTH AFRICAN CONSULAR OFFICIALS HERE HAS BEEN THAT SAG DECIDED TO WITH-DRAW THESE OFFICIALS VOLUNTARILY, WE KNOW FRELIMO ORDERED THEM TO LEAVE WITH ONLY THREE DAYS NOTICE. THOUGH THE CONSULATE GENERAL CLOSED, LAST WEEK AN "OFFICE" STARTED OPERATING IN A NEW LOCATION AND, ALTHOUGH OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON CERTAIN DAYS, IS NOT YET ISSUING VISAS. MOZAMBICANS WISHING TO TRAVEL TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOUTH AFRICA HAVE BEEN TAKING THEIR CHANCES AT GETTING VISAS

AT JAN SMUTS AIRPORT OR AT ONE OF THE SEVERAL BORDER ENTRY POINTS. A CALL ON JULY 8 TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN "OFFICE" NUMBER INQUIRING ABOUT VISAS ELICITED THE RESPONSE BY A LOCAL EMPLOYEE THAT "VISAS WILL PROBABLY AGAIN BE AVAILABLE LATER THIS WEEK".

2. FORMER NUMBER THREE MAN AT THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONGEN, N.M. NEL, IS IN CHARGE, AIDED BY SEVERAL SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICERS (COMMERCIAL, IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS) AND THE FULL STAFF OF LOCAL EMPLOYEES. ON JULY 8 NEL LEFT FOR CONSULTATIONS IN PRETORIA. A SOURCE HAS INDICATED NEL MET WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT JULY 7 WHO PROPOSED THAT A SIXTY-DAY PERIOD BE ESTABLISHED DURING WHICH TIME SOUTH AFRICANS COULD TRAVEL TO MOZAMBIQUE WITHOUT VISAS. SUPPOSEDLY, UNDER THIS PROPOSAL THE SOUTH AFRICAN "OFFICE" WOULD BE ABLE TO RE-COMMENCE THE ISSUING OF VISAS FOR SOUTH AFRICA. THE PURPOSE OF NEL'S TRIP REPORTEDLY IS TO SEEK SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD EXPERIMENT WITH A SYSTEM WHEREBY THE NEW MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT COULD KEEP THE SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESSMEN AND TOURISTS COMING TO MOZAMBIOUE WITHOUT APPEARING TO BE PUBLICLY DOING SO. (DETA, MOZAMBIQUE'S AIRLINE, IS ALREADY ANNOUNCING IN SOUTH AFRICAN ADS THAT VISAS ARE NO LONGER NECESSARY FOR SOUTH AFRICANS TRAVELING TO MOZAMDIQUE.)

3. RHODESIA CLOSED ITS CONSULATE AND STAFF MEMBERS MOVED OUT ON JUNE 23. STAYING BEHIND WERE FOUR MEMBERS OF THE RHODESIAN CUSTOMS MISSION AND ONE "TRADE REPRESENTATIVE" WHO DO THEIR BEST TO ASSUME A "BUSINESS AS USUAL" ATTITUDE. AIR RHODESIA SUSPENDED SERVICE BETWEEN LOURENCO MARQUES AND SALISBURY ON APRIL 1, 1975, THOUGH THE COMPANY'S SIGN IS STILL HANGING OUTSIDE THE OFFICES ON LM'S MAIN SHOPPING STREET, AVENIDA REPUBLICA. BOTH AIR RHODESIA AND DETA CONTINUE TO OFFER THEIR TWICE-WEEKLY FLIGHTS LINKING BEIRA AND SALISBURY. WALKER

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